

AMWA Mid-America Chapter Meeting of September 8, 2020

Call to order: 2:00 pm

Attendees: Rebecca, Joanne, Lisa, Leslie, Crystal, Heather, and Raesa

Minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

Events in St. Louis

Lisa provided an update about upcoming events.

Tuesday, September 22: Zoom Networking Dinner will be coordinated by Lisa Balbes and Joanne McAndrews. Currently, 10 members have confirmed and 3 said "May be".

Thursday, November 12: Annual Best and Worst Books of 2020 will be led by Leslie Niestadt.

Events for the first half of 2021 will most likely be held virtually.

Events in Kansas City

Raesa and Crystal provided an update.

Tuesday, Sept 15: Webinar on LinkedIn for Medical Writers to be presented by Raesa Gupte. Currently, 20 people are registered.

January 2021 (Tentative): Crystal Austin may present a webinar.

Survey sent out to Kansas City area members indicated that people preferred webinars to in-person events.

Events in Nebraska

Update by Rebecca: Nothing to report

Events in Iowa

Natalie unavailable for comment.

Treasurer's Report

Update for savings and checking account balances provided by Leslie.

Newsletter

Susan was unavailable for comment, but Fall newsletter is on track.

New Member Report

Update by Heather.

One new student member in Omaha, NE. Total 98 members, including 4 in grace period.

CAC Update

Leslie sent out the minutes of the most recent CAC meeting. Most of the meeting focused on the upcoming virtual conference and how it would work out.

Other Business

Issue of non-AMWA members attending Chapter webinars:

All attendees agreed to let non-members attend, unless it was a Chapter Officers' meeting. It could help build a welcoming atmosphere, let people get involved, and encourage them to join AMWA.

However, since the webinars are an AMWA membership benefit, we should set a limit on how many times someone can attend as a non-member. We could let an individual attend 3 events, but would strongly encourage them to become AMWA members. Registration by non-members would have to be considered on a case-by-case basis. Since this hasn't been a big problem so far, there is no need to have an official policy on this issue at the moment but we could revisit in the future.

Chapter Officer Elections and Business Meeting:

According to our by-laws we are supposed to have an annual business meeting for the Chapter and elections every year. Rebecca proposed having a virtual Chapter business meeting during the annual conference. Joanne suggested a virtual networking dinner meeting. Crystal suggested a breakfast meeting. Rebecca will send out a Doodle poll to see what works out best for everyone.

Tentative plan is to have local area members discuss the events that were organized during the year. Ideas for making the online event interactive: have a round of introductions followed by ice-breaker questions. Could have one person watching the chat for any questions/comments sent in the chat box. If there are a lot of attendees, we can have breakout groups in Zoom.

Nominations for the Executive Board will be taken 6 weeks ahead of time and sent to members a month before the meeting is scheduled. Self-nominations are permitted.

Next Chapter Meeting

Tuesday, November 10, 2020 at 2:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 2:35 p.m.